



PLACER HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Prevention • Education • Protection

Established 1949

For Immediate Release

November 29, 2018

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Fire Chief
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LOCAL FIRE DISTRICTS SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOP NEW INNOVATIVE FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM FUNDED BY FEMA FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grant - EMW-2017-FP-00394

The Placer Hills Fire Protection District has had successful outcomes resulting from their creative efforts to develop public safety programs and enhance the level of services the fiscally distressed Fire District provides to the communities they serve.

In August, the Fire District was notified that they had been awarded funding to establish a Fire Marshal position to work on development of a regional fire prevention program to reduce the threats to life and property in the Placer Hills, Newcastle and Foresthill Fire Protection Districts. This critical position has been desperately needed to devote the time and efforts necessary to develop and implement a comprehensive Fire Prevention Program.

The objective is to evaluate, identify and reduce the hazards associated with living in our wildland urban interface communities. With the recent catastrophic fires causing tremendous loss of lives and property impacting similar communities, proactively seeking new opportunities to reduce the inherent threats is going to improve safety in our areas.

We would like to introduce Chief Vernell Brothers who has over 30 years of fire service experience. After beginning his fire service career in 1987, he served as a Firefighter for 7 years until 1994. In 1994, he was promoted to Fire Engineer/Fire Inspector, a position within the Code Enforcement Division of the Fire Prevention Bureau. He worked as a Fire Inspector for 3 years. 1998, Chief Brothers was promoted to the position of Fire Captain, where he served in that capacity for 5 years.



During his five years as a Captain, he served as an Assistant Fire Marshal within the Kern County Fire Prevention Bureau. It was at this point that he was granted the responsibility of overseeing the Fire Inspectors and the Public Education Division of Fire Prevention. In June of 2004, he was promoted to an Operations Fire Battalion Chief and eventually transferred back to the Fire Prevention Division where he served as the County Fire Marshal. There, he supervised 11 Fire Inspectors and 3 Assistant Fire Marshals. His accomplishments included development and implementation of the Kern County Hazard Reduction Program and Manual. These were specifically designed to reduce hazards and mitigate the threats from wildfires. This experience will help to reduce losses of life and property in our Wildland Urban Interface Communities.